

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 L-03 NSC-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

ARA-06 IO-11 ACDA-05 EB-07 /077 W

----- 021392

R 110800Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6451

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 1230

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CF, CG, AO

SUBJECT: CONGO (B)

1. SUMMARY: FRG AMBASSADOR TO THE CONGO COMMENTS ON ABORTIVE FEB. 7  
MOBUTU/NGOUABI MEETING, SOVIET/CONGO RELATIONS, CUBANS IN  
CABINDA AND NEW GOC. END.

2. IN GENERAL TOUR D'HORIZON WITH AMBASSADOR ON THE CONGO,  
FISCHER, FRG AMBASSADOR TO CONGO (B) MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

3. CONFIRMED REPORTS WE HAD HEARD OF POSSIBLE NGOUABI/MOBUTU  
MEETING OVER FEB. 7 WEEKEND. NOTED IT WAS CANCELLED AT NGOUABI'S  
INITIATIVE. PUBLIC  
REASON FOR CANCELLATION ASCRIBED TO ATTACKS BY ZAIRIAN PRESS  
AGAINST GOC. FISCHER, HOWEVER, SPECULATED THAT NETO MAY HAVE  
BEEN BEHIND NGOUABI'S CHANGE OF MIND. ACCORDING TO FISCHER,  
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NETO MAY HAVE SUSPECTED MOBUTU WANTED TO SEE NGOUABI FOR PURPOSE

OF EITHER PUTTING FEELERS OUT TO MPLA, OR WORKING OUT SEPARATE DEAL WITH NGOUABI. GIVEN HIS STRONG MILITARY POSITION AND IMMINENT SUCCESS, NETO, REASONING GOES, PERSUADED NGOUABI NOT TO SEE MOBUTU.

4. ANGOLAN PROBLEM HAS BROUGHT GOC MORE CLOSELY WITHIN SOVIET ORBIT. NGOUABI IS AWARE OF FACT THAT HIS COUNTRY IS BECOMING A MILITARY BASE ALTHOUGH HE IS OPPOSED TO IT. IN FACT, DURING MOSCOW MEETING LAST SUMMER, HE HAD TURNED DOWN THREE SOVIET CONDITIONS PROPOSED IN EXCHANGE FOR ACCEPTANCE OF CONGOLESE PARTY INTO INTERNATIONAL PARTY. THESE WERE 1) SOVIET BASE IN POINTE NOIRE, 2) ACCEPTANCE OF BREZHNEV DOCTRINE, AND 3) COOLING OFF WITH CHINESE. DESPITE HIS REFUSAL, SOVIET SHIPS CONTINUE COMING TO POINTE NOIRE AND SOVIET PLANS ARE FLYING INTO BRAZZAVILLE WITH RELATIVE REGULARITY. IN EXCHANGE, GOC HAS RECEIVED NO DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. IT HAS HOWEVER RECEIVED 5-7 MIG 17'S WHICH ARE CURRENTLY BEING UNCRATED. (FISCHER SAID HE WAS ABLE TO CONFIRM THE PRESENCE OF THESE MIGS THROUGH FRENCH SOURCES AT BRAZZAVILLE AIRPORT. HE STATED THAT GOZ CHARGES OF LONG RANGE ROCKETS OR MISSILES IN BRAZZAVILLE WERE FALSE AND THAT GOC WAS MAKING SIMILAR ALLEGATION AGAINST ZAIRE. HE WAS UNABLE TO CONFIRM REPORTED PRESENCE OF 1,000 CUBANS IN THE CONGO BUT OBSERVED THAT CUBAN EMBASSY HAD RISEN FROM CHARGE TO A 12-MAN STAFF.

5. THERE ARE BETWEEN 2,500-3,000 CUBANS IN CABINDA. STRENGTH OF MPLA THERE IS SUCH THAT IT COULD HOLD OUT AGAINST ANY ZAIRE-INSPIRED ATTACK. CONGOLESE MILITARY INTERVENTION IN CABINDA IS UNLIKELY, UNLESS PROVOKED BY GOZ. GOC HAS DONE NOTHING TO INCREASE SIZE OF ITS MILITARY, WHICH TOTALS APPROXIMATELY 10,000.

6. NEW GOVERNMENT IS COMPOSED PRIMARILY OF TECHNOCRATS WHO ARE EXPERTS IN THEIR FIELD. (HE NOTED THAT ONLY 6 OUT OF 15 MINISTERS WERE PARTY MEMBERS). ACCORDING TO FISCHER, NEW PRIME MINISTER, GOMA, IS BEST MAN THAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO THE CONGO. NEW FOREIGN MINISTER IS A PHILOSOPHY PROFESSOR AND ALTHOUGH HE IS NOT MEMBER OF PARTY HE USES ITS RHETORIC AND HAS HARSH WORDS FOR U.S. IMPERIALISM. REASON FOR CHANGE ASCRIBED PRIMARILY TO PRESSING ECONOMIC TROUBLES RESULTING FROM OVER

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SPENDING. PRIOR TO THE RESHUFFLE, THERE WERE IN EFFECT TWO GOVERNMENTS: THE PARTY AND THE ADMINISTRATION. HAVING THE SAME AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY, EACH ENTITY ACTED ON ITS OWN WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION--THUS MAKING FOREIGN PURCHASES WHICH WERE EITHER USELESS OR DUPLICATIVE. WITH CHANGE, TWO-TIER SYSTEM HAS BEEN ABOLISHED, WITH ADMINISTRATION (NOT PARTY) HAVING ULTIMATE POLICY RESPONSIBILITIES. THERE WAS NO PURGE AS SUCH AND NONE OF THE FORMER MINISTERS HAVE BEEN IMPRISONED OR

OTHER-WISE PUNISHED. FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER GANAO, FOR EXAMPLE, IS REPORTED TO BE SLATED TO BECOME CONGO'S NEW AMBASSADOR TO THE UN. NEW GOVERNMENT DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE AFFECTED GOC'S POSITION ON ANGOLA.

7. US AND NATO ARE CURRENTLY FAVORITE TARGETS FOR CONTROLLED GOVERNMENT PRESS. CUTLER

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## Message Attributes

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